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WE ARE... MARSHALL®

The Newsletter for Marshall University

December 12, 2012

Winter commencement 2012 to honor nearly 1,200 MU graduates

Marshall University will honor nearly 1,200 graduates from July and August 2012, and students who are tentatively scheduled to graduate this month at the annual Winter Commencement Sunday, Dec. 16, at Cam Henderson Center. The ceremony begins at 2 p.m.

Among the 1,193 students who received or are about to receive degrees are 756 undergraduates and 433 with graduate degrees. About 400 students have indicated they plan to participate in the ceremony. They will receive congratulations from President Stephen J. Kopp and be presented with a scroll by their academic dean.

Registrar Roberta Ferguson said 191 students will graduate with honors. Twenty-four will graduate summa cum laude (3.85 to 4.0 GPA), 59 magna cum laude (3.6 to 3.84 GPA), and 99 cum laude (3.3 to 3.59 GPA).

Marshall began conducting a winter graduation ceremony in 2008 with a convocation at the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center. The speaker was Dr. Montserrat Miller, a professor of history. Winter commencement began in 2009 and the tradition of having an MU professor deliver the keynote address continued.

Previous commencement speakers were Dr. Simon Perry, professor of political science, in 2009; Dr. Bonita Lawrence, professor of mathematics, in 2010; and Dr. Jamie Warner, professor of political science, in 2011.

This year's speaker is Dan Hollis, an associate professor of journalism who recently was named the 2012 Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching West Virginia Professor of the Year.

Hollis received the 2011 Marshall & Shirley Reynolds Outstanding Teacher Award at Marshall, and received the Pickens-Queen Excellence in Teaching Award in 2001. In addition, he has taken first place in six consecutive years, and seven of the past eight, in the News/Sports/Public Affairs category of the National Broadcasting Society and Alpha Rho Epsilon Professional Electronic Media Awards. Hollis joined Marshall in the fall of 1999. He received his master's degree in communications from the University of Kentucky in 1997 and taught there two years before joining Marshall.

Marshall will produce a DVD of the winter commencement ceremony that can be purchased for \$20. Orders may be submitted using the DVD order form on the registrar's office website (www.marshall.edu/registrar). Orders also will be accepted Dec. 16 at Henderson Center. The Marshall University Alumni Association will process the DVD orders.

Free parking for commencement will be available in the garage across 3rd Avenue from Cam Henderson Center, or on any university parking lot. The garage and the Joan C. Edwards Stadium West Lot provide the most convenient parking.

Reminder: Holiday Party on Huntington campus Thursday



President and Mrs. Kopp are inviting faculty and staff and their families to a gala holiday party, which will take place Thursday, Dec. 13, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. in the Don Morris Room of the Memorial Student Center.

To celebrate the event, Santa will be arriving at 5:45 for visits and photos with children. In addition there will be crafts, a Lego presentation, entertainment and lots of good food.

Reservations can be made by calling ext. 6-3977.

Marshall University School of Medicine researchers study Vitamin C deficiencies in patients on blood-thinning medication

A case study published by two Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine researchers shows that patients taking warfarin, an anticoagulant medication, may inadvertently be limiting their vitamin C intake because of dietary restrictions associated with the medicine.

The clinical study by Dr. Lynne Goebel, professor of medicine, and Dr. George Yousef, a first-year resident in the Department of Internal Medicine, was accepted for publication in the Journal of General Internal Medicine and released [online Dec. 2](#).

According to the study, patients taking the drug warfarin are often told to monitor their intake of vitamin K-containing foods since vitamin K lessens the blood thinning effects of the medication.

These dietary restrictions may cause patients to inadvertently limit their intake of other nutrients, including vitamin C.

“To my knowledge, this is the only case of vitamin C deficiency in a patient taking warfarin reported in the literature,” Goebel said. “Hopefully the publication will raise awareness for this problem and lead other physicians to consider this diagnosis in their patients taking warfarin.”

A diet low in vitamin C can lead to a variety of health issues including bleeding gums, poor wound healing, and rashes, commonly known as scurvy.

“I hope patients will make sure they are taking in food with vitamin C, although any dietary change should be monitored by their doctor,” Goebel said. “The new recommendations for diet advice in patients taking warfarin is to take in a consistent amount of food with vitamin K rather than avoiding this food altogether.”

Goebel has undertaken a larger study on vitamin deficiencies in people taking the drug warfarin to assess if the problem is more widespread.

Marshall employees invited to start 2013 with Project Fit



It's never too early to start on those New Year's resolutions and the Marshall Recreation Center has just the one to put at the top your list. They're releasing a 90-day pilot program, MU Project Fit, which is an opportunity for faculty and staff to take advantage of the Recreation Center and its services at bargain rates.

The names of fifty employees will be drawn from those who apply for the pilot program and the lucky winners will be offered 50% off the membership fee during the pilot period with the other 50% of the cost subsidized by Marshall. Those who are current members and whose names are drawn have the option of suspending their membership during the pilot program. Those selected will pay just \$57 total or \$19 a month for the 90-day period.

Services that are available include individualized fitness programs and goal setting in consultation with skilled professionals. Check-ins to the facility will be recorded to help encourage employees to visit the facility and participate often, and the center staff encourages participants to make suggestions about group fitness classes they would like to see added.

Regular use of the center's facilities can have real health benefits, according to Michele Muth, the Recreation Center's assistant director for marketing and membership, including reducing the risk of stroke, the development of coronary heart disease, Type II diabetes, colon cancer, while

also reducing feelings of depression and anxiety. Regular workouts can also lower stress and help build and maintain healthy bones, muscles and joints, she says.

All Marshall employees are eligible for the MU-Fit program. To apply, visit the Rec Center's website at www.marshallcampusrec.com/fitness/fitness-programs/mu-project-fit/.

Marshall University Executive MBA students hooded in special ceremony



Seventeen professional students in Marshall University's Executive Master of Business Administration class were honored last week during a special hooding ceremony at the Charleston Marriott.

Timothy R. Duke, president and CEO of Steel of West Virginia, Inc., delivered the keynote address. Duke has more than 39 years of progressive management experience and has been employed at Steel of West Virginia, Inc., since 1987. He serves on a number of boards, including the Marshall University College of Business' advisory board.

The students were formally hooded with their academic regalia during the ceremony by President Stephen J. Kopp with assistance from Dr. Margie McInerney, interim associate dean of the College of Business.

"This ceremony recognizes the accomplishments of our professional business students in a formal, professional setting befitting the hard work and dedication that went into earning their Executive MBA degrees," said Dr. Uday Tate, director of the Executive MBA program. "They have studied together for more than 60 Saturdays on the South Charleston campus. We are proud of these professionals, we appreciate the sacrifices they made to advance their education and careers, and we expect great things from them."

The cohort successfully completed all the requirements of the Executive MBA program in 16 months including a recent international residency in Santiago, Chile.

Photo: Pictured is the Executive MBA cohort, Class of 2012, with President Stephen J. Kopp (farthest left).

Visiting Writers Series plans reception, faculty reading tonight

The A.E. Stringer Visiting Writers Series and the MU English department will present a reception and faculty reading at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12, in the Drinko Library atrium. Wine and cheese will be served during the reception and Marshall's faculty of creative writers will read from their work, according to English faculty member Dr. Rachael Peckham.

Marshall Artists Series provides the opportunity to give the gift of entertainment this holiday season

Still worried about what to give those special people this holiday season? How about a chance to see a Motown legend live in Huntington? Or star of stage and screen Ed Asner portray one of America's most charismatic Presidents – FDR? Or see the iconic Addams Family come to life before your eyes, or witness the free-spirited shenanigans in the Broadway hit *Hair*. All it takes is one phone call to the Marshall University Artists Series at ext. 6-6656 before Dec. 20.

The Artists Series is celebrating its 76th year of bringing entertainment to both West Virginia and the Tri-State area. Organizers say that with the diverse selection of events the Artists Series has to offer, there is sure to be an event for everyone. All shows will be held in the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center in Huntington with the exception of *Ed Asner as FDR*, which will take place in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center on the Huntington campus.

Upcoming events include:

- **Ed Asner as FDR**

Fresh from his recent stint on Broadway, Ed Asner will star as “FDR,” performing on Wednesday, Jan. 30, at 7:30 p.m. This one-man drama is based on the long-running Broadway hit “Sunrise at Campobello.” “FDR” follows the president as he reflects on his years in office, from inauguration to the trials of World War II.

- **Smokey Robinson**

Singer-songwriter Smokey Robinson, performs Saturday, Feb. 16, at 7:30 p.m. Once pronounced by Bob Dylan as America's “greatest living poet,” Robinson's career spans over four decades which began when Motown founded The Miracles while he was still in high school. The Miracles were Berry Gordy's first vocal group and they were a huge success.

Robinson has received the Grammy Living Legend Award, NARAS Lifetime Achievement Award, the National Medal of Arts Award and the Kennedy Center Honors. He has also been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Songwriters' Hall of Fame.

- **HAIR**

The new Tony-winning production of the Broadway musical *Hair* comes to Huntington, Thursday,

March 7 at 7:30 p.m. Hair follows a group of young Americans searching for peace and love in a turbulent time. Hair features a number of unforgettable songs, including “Aquarius,” “Let the Sun Shine In,” “Good Morning, Starshine” and “Easy To Be Hard.”

- **The Addams Family**

This production of The Addams Family brings the darkly delirious world of Gomez, Morticia, Uncle Fester, Grandma, Wednesday, Pugsley and Lurch to life on Sunday, April 28, at 7 p.m.. This hit musical comedy has been characterized as “a visually satisfying, rib-tickling, lunatic musical that will entertain you to death!”

Tickets for all Marshall Artists Series events can be purchased in person at the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center box office, or by phone at ext. 6-6656.

The next issue of We Are...Marshall will be distributed Jan. 9, 2013. Please send any materials for consideration to [Pat Dickson](#) by noon, Jan. 7.
